PATENT APPLIC

Docket Number: 008312-0284087 Client Reference: T4AOA-01S0955-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of

SHINICHI KIKUCHI, et al.

Application No.: 09/986,142

Filed: November 7, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2652

RECEIVED

NOV 2 3 2004

Examiner: Unassigned

Confirmation No.: 4650 Technology Center 2600

For: INFORMATION RECORDING DEVICE WHICH HANDLES A PLURALITY OF RECORDING SURFACES AND INFORMATION RECORDING METHOD WHICH HANDLES A PLURALITY OF RECORDING SURFACES

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner return an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to Applicants with the next Office communication to indicate that the references have been considered, per MPEP § 609.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.

The foreign references were cited in a counterpart foreign application in the attached Japanese Communication (Office Action) dated October 26, 2004. An English language version of the foreign communication and English language Abstracts are attached for the Examiner's information. Both the Japanese Communication and the English Abstracts are relied upon to satisfy the requirement of a statement of relevance for the attached references.

Respectfully submitted,

n P. Darling

Registration Number 44482 Telephone: (703) 905-2000 Facsimile: (703) 905-2500

Date: November 19, 2004

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP P.O. Box 10500 McLean, VA 22102 Customer Number: 00909

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